

PULASKI COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

February 20, 2024

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Sara Jordan. Board members present were Sara Jordan, Pam Abrams, Michele Wasson, Carol Mendel, Deeana Montgomery, Andy Kessel, Arlene Sevilla-White, Susan Rose, Melody Parsley, Elizabeth Denise Devlin, and Derek Reed. Ann Griffin was absent.

Minutes: The minutes of the January meeting were presented by Secretary Deeana Montgomery. Carol moved that the board accept the minutes, and Arlene seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by vote of the board.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Andy Kessel presented the 2024 proposed budget. Melody moved to approve the 2024 annual budget, and Pam seconded. The budget passed by vote of the board. Also, Andy presented the January monthly financial report. Carol moved that we accept the report, and Michele seconded. The motion passed by vote of the board.

Assistant Treasurer Arlene Sevilla-White reported that the Bank OZK account was closed February 2, 2024, in compliance with state regulations. She reported on collection of past dues and announced that there are no past due dues for the year 2023. So far over 200 members have paid 2024 dues online to date.

Derek Reed, Pulaski County Agent, reported that letters are being sent to members with incomplete work hours and unpaid dues. They may go on probation for one year. These members will be dropped from membership after a certain date if requirements are not met. People with incomplete education but complete work hours can be contacted and reminded of the education requirement. Carol volunteered to contact these members for 2024.

Derek will remind in the general meeting about the method of paying dues online.

Reports: Vice President Pam Abrams gave a report on projects. She reported that the Extension Office Project is needing help as chair Ann Griffin is on leave. Derek and Blanca Hernandez will aid the project as well as new members have a requirement to work five hours on the project. The chair and co-chair training meeting will be held following the general meeting today. Pam encouraged the board members to attend long enough to be introduced at the session. The 4-H Board has approved the renaming of the Demonstration Garden Project to the Kathy Ratcliffe Demonstration Garden at the Vines. Derek will have new reimbursement forms available for the projects. A new project chair and co-chair list will be available soon, and a copy will be sent to the board and the new Web Committee.

Michele Wasson presented a written report on standing committees. An orientation meeting was held on February 9, 2024. The Busy Bee Committee has awards ready to present at the general meeting today. Christy Boling is the new chair of the Continuing Education Committee. The Event Committee is organizing today. This is the old Social Committee and is chaired by Sharon Priest. Bill Harris is the new chair of the Facebook/photography Committee. The Magnolia Chronicle has two new co-chairs, Sheryl Porter and Dixie Land; they plan an edition of the Chronicle by Match 1st. 2024. Chair of the

Meeting/Welcome Committee is Rochelle Nooner. Ann Griffin has joined Susan Rose on the Program Committee. The Record Keeping Committee will be chaired by Harold Abbey with assistant Jessica Bursk. The Stuff Committee will be chaired by Rachel Kelley and Laura Anne Warren; they will distribute Stuff orders today at the general meeting. Arline Jackson will continue as chair of the Sunshine Committee. Nancy Archer will continue to head the Training Committee. Jo Anne Jennings and Sharon Holman will co-chair the Travel Committee. Tina Coley has agreed to produce brochures for the Travel Committee. The Web/Directory Committee is being reorganized by Chair Cindy Strauss. Michele recommended annual training for the committee chairs.

Carol announced that the Pest Committee will visit projects on March 12, 2024, and she presented the other PEST scheduled visits. Carol, Sara, Pam, Michele, and Derek will attend. Other board members are invited to attend all sessions.

At-Large Board members presented reports. Susan reported regarding programs and the directory. Susan volunteered to take charge of soliciting door prizes. Melody reported that she has worked on The Chronicle, and now it is organized. Denise will take on the duties of coordinating PCMG workdays at St. James United Methodist Church.

New Business: Derek will meet regarding the State on-line reporting request.

Leave of Absence requests were presented and reviewed. Carol moved that we approve all requests from Janet Beck, Elizabeth Gordon, and James Newberry as well as a Sustainer request from Pam Gadberry. Carol moved that we accept all requests. Andy seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the requests.

Sara made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Andy seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deeana Montgomery

Board Secretary